

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of ~~remotely distributing information~~
~~packet routes to routers~~ determining an explicit route of a network, comprising:

gathering network information distributed by network devices;

~~suggesting an~~ determining a first explicit route determined by with an explicit routing
algorithm not distributed to ~~routers of the network, the explicit route suggested for replacing~~
~~a first route determined by a routing algorithm of one of the routers~~ the network devices,
based on the network information;

checking that the first explicit route is ~~substantially free of potential loops, errors, and~~
~~excessive traffic; and, based on the network information, for a first potential error; and~~

~~distributing, after the checking, the~~ first explicit route to ~~one of the routers~~ at least one
network device of the network.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

establishing the distributed explicit route; and

detecting loops, errors, and excessive traffic of the established explicit route; and

adjusting the explicit route in response to the detection of loops, errors, and excessive
traffic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 16,
wherein the ~~suggesting~~ determining, checking, and distributing are performed by an
external routing manager agent part (ERMap) unit, and
wherein the establishing, detecting, and adjusting are performed by an external
routing manager router part (ERMrp) unit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 17, wherein the ERMrp unit
provides feedback information to the ERMap unit.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 16, wherein the first explicit
route, ~~or a second route determined by the~~ is replaced by a route of a distributed routing
algorithm ~~of the one of the routers, replaces the explicit route~~ when the first explicit route is
no longer needed or desired.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 15, wherein the network is an
internet protocol network.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A manager device for ~~remotely distributing~~
~~information packet routes to routers~~ determining an explicit route of a network, the manager
device comprising:

a first computer code product configured to gather network information distributed by
network devices;

a ~~first~~ second computer code product configured to ~~suggest an~~ determine a first
explicit route based upon the gathered network information with ~~determined by~~ an explicit
routing algorithm not distributed to ~~routers of the network, the explicit route suggested for~~

~~replacing a first route determined by a routing algorithm of one of the routers; and the~~
network devices, based on the network information;

a ~~second~~ third computer code product configured to check ~~that the first explicit route~~
~~is substantially free of potential loops, errors, and excessive traffic; and , based on the~~
network information, for a first potential error; and

a ~~third~~ fourth computer code product configured to distribute, ~~and the check by the~~
~~second computer code, the the first explicit route to the one of the routers at least one network~~
device of the network.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The manager device of Claim 21, ~~further wherein~~
the at least one network device includes comprising:

a ~~fourth~~ first computer code product configured to establish the explicit route
distributed to the network device by a manager device; and

a ~~fifth~~ second computer code product configured to detect loops, errors, and excessive
traffic of the established explicit route; and

a ~~sixth~~ third computer code product configured to adjust the explicit route in response
to the detection of loops, errors, and excessive traffic.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The manager device of Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 21,
wherein the first, second, and third computer code products ~~are comprised of the~~
manager device comprise within an external routing manager agent part (ERMap) unit, ~~and~~
~~wherein the fourth, fifth, and sixth computer code products are comprised within an~~
external routing manager router part (ERMrp) unit.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The at least one network device of Claim ~~[[23]]~~ 22,

wherein the ~~ERMrp unit provides feedback information to the ERMap unit~~ first, second, and third computer code products of the network device comprise an external routing manager router part (ERMrp) unit.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The at least one network device of Claim [[22]] 24, wherein the first explicit route, or a second is replaced by a route of a distributed route ~~determined by the routing algorithm of the one of the routers, replaces the explicit route~~ when the first explicit route is no longer needed or desired.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The manager device of Claim 21, wherein the network is an internet protocol network.

Claim 27 (New): The method of Claim 15, wherein the network information is distributed by the network devices via a link state routing protocol supported by the network devices.

Claim 28 (New): The method of Claim 15, wherein the first potential error is a routing loop.

Claim 29 (New): The method of Claim 15, wherein the first potential error is congestion.

Claim 30 (New): The method of Claim 27, wherein:
the distribution of the first explicit route is performed after the checking of the first explicit route; and

the checking of the first explicit route is performed without altering a routing table of the at least one router or transmitting data along the first explicit route.

Claim 31 (New): The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

determining a second explicit route with the explicit routing algorithm not distributed to the network devices, based on the network information; and

checking the second explicit route, based on the network information, for the first or a second potential error.

Claim 32 (New): The method of Claim 15, wherein the second explicit route is configured to replace the first explicit route upon satisfaction of a condition.

Claim 33 (New): The method of Claim 31, wherein the network information is distributed by the network devices via a link state routing protocol supported by the network devices.

Claim 34 (New): The method of Claim 31, wherein the first or second potential error is a routing loop.

Claim 35 (New): The method of Claim 31, wherein the first or second potential error is congestion.

Claim 36 (New): The method of Claim 33, further comprising:

distributing the second explicit route and the condition to the at least one router of the network.

Claim 37 (New): The method of Claim 36, wherein:

the distribution of the second explicit route is performed after the checking of the second explicit route; and

the checking of the second explicit route is performed without altering a routing table of the at least one router or transmitting data along the second explicit route.

Claim 38 (New): A computer readable carrier including computer program instructions that cause a computer to implement a method of determining an explicit route of a network, the method comprising:

gathering network information distributed by network devices;

determining a first explicit route with an explicit routing algorithm not distributed to the network devices, based on the network information;

checking the first explicit route, based on the network information, for a first potential error;

distributing the first explicit route to at least one network device of the network.

Claim 39 (New): The computer readable carrier according to Claim 38, wherein the method further comprises:

determining a second explicit route with the explicit routing algorithm not distributed to the network devices, based on the network information; and

checking the second explicit route, based on the network information, for the first or a second potential error,

wherein the second explicit route is configured to replace the first explicit route upon satisfaction of a condition.

Claim 40 (New): The computer readable carrier according to Claim 39, wherein the computer program instructions that cause a computer to implement a method of determining an explicit route, the method further comprises:

distributing the second explicit route and the condition to the at least one router of the network.